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VIET CONG

SAIGON (AP)- PRESIDENT NGUYEN VAN THIEU AND THE VIET CONG TODAY SOUGHT TO STRENGTHEN THEIR POSITIONS IN THE STRUGGLE FOR POLITICAL CONTROL OF SOUTH VIETNAM AFTER ANY CEASE-FIRE.

SOUTH VIETNAMESE SOURCES SAID THIEU WOULD GO BEFORE THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY TUESDAY TO ASK AT LEAST A THREE-MONTH EXTENSION OF HIS SIX MONTHS' SPECIAL-DECREE POWERS WHICH GIVE HIM TIGHT CONTROL OVER THE COUNTRY'S 17.5 MILLION PEOPLE.

THIEU'S REQUEST, IF PRESENTED, WOULD MARK HIS FIRST SPEECH TO A JOINT NATIONAL ASSEMBLY IN TWO YEARS.

THIEU ALSO PLANS TO REORGANIZE HIS ADMINISTRATION IN EFFORTS TO DEAL WITH A CEASE-FIRE, ACCORDING TO TIN SONG, A NEWSPAPER CONTROLLED BY THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE.

THE VIET CONG, MEANWHILE, SAID IT IS RAPIDLY DEVELOPING ITS MILITARY AND POLITICAL FORCES FOR A POSTWAR VIETNAM SHOWDOWN. IT URGED AN UPRISING TO MAKE THE UNITED STATES QUICKLY SIGN A PEACE AGREEMENT.

SENIOR SOUTH VIETNAMESE OFFICIALS SAID THEY DOUBTED ANY AGREEMENT

THIS No Objection to Declassification in Part 2010/03/03 : LOC-HAK-247-10-24-0 | TO A  
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SENIOR SOUTH VIETNAMESE OFFICIALS SAID THEY DOUBTED ANY AGREEMENT  
COULD BE SIGNED BY DEC. 15, A SPECULATED DATE FOR SIGNING THE  
DRAFT CEASE-FIRE PROPOSAL WORKED OUT IN PARIS BETWEEN THE UNITED  
STATES AND HANOI IN MID-OCTOBER.

ONE OFFICIAL SAID SAIGON CANNOT SIGN THE CURRENT ACCORD BECAUSE  
IT WOULD "CAUSE TOO MANY DIFFICULTIES" IN THE FUTURE.

ANOTHER GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL SAID SOUTH VIETNAM "SHARES THE  
WORRY" OF THE UNITED STATES ABOUT PRISONERS OF WAR HELD IN NORTH  
VIETNAM AND "WILL DO ITS UTMOST" TO HELP IN THEIR RELEASE. ✓✓

THIS COULD EXTEND TO THE RELEASE OF NORTH VIETNAMESE PRISONERS OF  
WAR HELD IN SOUTH VIETNAM BUT NOT CIVILIAN PRISONERS, HE SAID.  
SOUTHERN-BASED VIET CONG MEMBERS ARE CONSIDERED CRIMINALS RATHER  
THAN POWS AND WOULD NOT BE INCLUDED IN A RELEASE, THE OFFICIAL SAID.

SOUTH VIETNAM HOLDS ABOUT 10,000 NORTH VIETNAMESE SOLDIERS AS  
WAR PRISONERS, HE SAID.

JC1113AES DEC 8

PLEASE NOTE:

THIS IS TO HELP CLARIFY ANY QUESTIONS PERTAINING TO FIRST ITEM  
IN NOON NOTES.